



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 323-9983
Fax (916) 323-9999
www.rcb.ca.gov



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Inquiry: I am a home care RCP and would like some clarification on duties in our scope of practice. (1) Does a homecare RCP need a physician's order to do a respiratory assessment on a home visit? I am aware that we need orders for pulse oximetry. However, to determine what the patient may need, a respiratory assessment may be required to report the findings back to the physician in order to come up with a care plan. This may include RR, HR, BP and auscultation. (2) Can a non-licensed person fit a CPAP mask and do a CPAP set up?

Response: The Respiratory Care Board (RCB) has reviewed your inquiry received in our office.

In response to your inquiry regarding a homecare RCP needing a physician's order to do a respiratory assessment on a home visit, please be advised that a physician's order is required, unless performed under a respiratory care protocol, as specified in Section 3702 of the Respiratory Care Practice Act.

In response to your inquiry regarding an unlicensed person fitting a CPAP mask and doing a CPAP set-up, please be advised that setting up a CPAP device constitutes the practice of respiratory care. Unlicensed persons are prohibited from practicing respiratory care in the State of California.

Reference # 2001-C-12